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4 September 1953

The Honorable Mike Mansfield
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Mansfield:

In Mr. Dulles' absence from the country, I am taking the liberty of replying to your letter of 25 August 1953, regarding CIA relations with the Congress. The answers below are numbered in accordance with the numbers of the questions in your letter.

1.a. CIA representatives have appeared on Agency business before the following Senate Committees:

Armed Services
Government Operations (Permanent Subcommittee on
Investigations)
Judiciary
(Immigration Subcommittee)
(Internal Security Subcommittee)

Agency representatives have appeared before the following House Committees:

Armed Services
Foreign Affairs
Government Operations
Un-American Activities

Agency representatives also have appeared before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and liaison is maintained with the Joint Committee on Printing.

Concerning regular surveys of CIA's activities by Congressional Committees, it should be noted that special subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees receive a detailed briefing on the various aspects of CIA work in the course of the

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annual review of CIA's budget requirements. The Armed Services Committees also receive briefings on CIA, particularly in connection with CIA legislation. In addition, in connection with atomic energy, the Joint Committee is regularly advised of CIA's activities in this field.

CIA legislation is handled by the Armed Services Committees in both Houses.

The CIA appropriation figure is very tightly held and is known to not more than five or six members in each House.

1.b. The only Committee which receives intelligence reports from CIA on a regular basis is the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. The Agency also makes certain information available to the Immigration Subcommittees of the Judiciary Committees of both Houses, and has also been of some assistance to the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

CIA intelligence reports are not made available merely to support the position of another Executive agency, in fact there would probably be many instances in which CIA could give intelligence reports to certain other Committees if requested.

2. It is our opinion that, from our point of view, the present ties with Congress are adequate. As far as we are able to determine, these ties are stronger than those which exist between any other nation's intelligence service and its legislative body.

In view of the fact that a decision to establish a Joint Congressional Committee on Central Intelligence involves many factors, some of which are not within the knowledge of CIA, it would not appear appropriate for CIA to express an opinion on the establishment of such a group.

3. At about the same time as the Hoover Commission Subcommittee was making its study of intelligence in 1949, a special group appointed by the President, consisting of Mr. Allen Dulles, Mr. William H. Jackson, and Mr. Matthias F. Correa, was requested to make a detailed survey of CIA. At the time of the survey, these men were all in private life. Many of their recommendations, as well as those of the Hoover Commission, were carried into effect and were largely implemented upon the advent of General Smith as Director in October 1950 and Mr. Jackson as Deputy Director. This implementation has been carried forward by Mr. Dulles, who succeeded Mr. Jackson as Deputy Director, and subsequently succeeded General Smith as Director. While it is safe to say that no intelligence

organization is ever completely satisfied with the quality of its end product, nevertheless, we feel, and have been informed by impartial observers, that the organization and the end product have been continuously and vigorously improved.

I know that Mr. Dulles would be happy to discuss this entire problem with you in greater detail at your convenience upon his return.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

C. P. CABELL
Lieutenant General, USAF
Acting Director

OGC/WLPforzheimer/Elc (1 Sept 53)
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Legislative Counsel

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for hand. delivery.*

MONTANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 25, 1953.

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Noted by A/DCT
per [signature]

Hon. Allen W. Dulles,
Director of Central Intelligence,
2430 E Street,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

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As you know, I have introduced a bill to establish a Joint Congressional Committee, along the lines of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, for the CIA. I would appreciate receiving an answer from you on the questions listed below:

1. ☒ What is the present relationship between Congress and CIA?
 - a. ☒ Before what Committees, other than Appropriations, have CIA representatives appeared on agency business? Is there any regular survey of CIA's activities by any committee? ☒ What is CIA's procedure for getting desired legislation? ☒ How many members of Congress know CIA's annual appropriation?
 - b. ☒ In what instances do members of Congress receive intelligence reports from CIA? ☒ Is it only when some other Executive Agency recommends it to support their position?
2. ☒ Does the Central Intelligence Agency feel that the present ties with Congress are adequate? ☒ What is its opinion of a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence similar to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy?
3. ☒ What action was taken on the Hoover Commission recommendation that "vigorous efforts be made to improve the internal structure of the CIA and the quality of its product."?

Must close now but hoping to hear from you soon, and with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

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Mike Mansfield